



**Project Enhancement Committee Meeting  
Meeting Minutes**

**January 6, 2022 • 11 a.m.-1 p.m.**

**By computer at [www.fastplanning.us/keepup/zoom](http://www.fastplanning.us/keepup/zoom)**

**By telephone at: 1 (253) 215-8782 Meeting ID: 815-2845-8368**

**1. Call to Order**

Jackson Fox, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

**2. Introduction of Members and Attendees**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
**Jackson Fox, <b>Chair</b>	FAST Planning
**Olivia Lunsford, <b>Vice Chair</b>	FAST Planning
*Dan Adamczak	State of Alaska
*Morgan Brown	State of Alaska
*Corey DiRutigliano	FAST Planning
*David Hayden	Fairbanks North Star Borough
*Jeff Jacobson	City of Fairbanks
*Tim Zinza	City of Fairbanks
*Sue Sprinkle	FAST Planning
Peter Stern	Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee
**Deborah Todd	FAST Planning
Donald Galligan	Fairbanks North Star Borough
Robert Pristash	City of Fairbanks
Jewelz Barker	Catalyst Alaska
Gabriel Larry	Citizen
<b>*PEC Committee Member, **FAST Planning Staff</b>	

**3. Approval of the January 6, 2022 Agenda**

**Motion:** To approve the January 6, 2022 Agenda. (Jacobson/Adamczak).

**Discussion:** No discussion.

**Vote on Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

**4. Approval of the October 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** To approve the October 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes. (Zinza/Jacobson).

**Discussion:** No discussion.

**Vote on Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

**5. Committee/Work Group Reports (including Chair's Report)**

- At the October 2021 meeting, the Project Enhancement Committee (PEC) recommended four project enhancements for the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Reconstruction Project related to pedestrian lighting, outdoor furniture, landscaping, and utilities.
- The PEC made a motion to hold a work group meeting to further discuss the crosswalk for 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

- The PEC made a motion to discuss an easement from Sadlers to install a decorative fence along their parking lot.
- The PEC also made a motion to forward a new proposal for the landscaping and gateway feature for the Airport Way/Cushman Intersection Improvement Project.
- On November 10, 2021, the Policy Board approved the PEC recommendations for Items 1-4 on the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Improvements project.
- The Policy Board also accepted the new proposal from the PEC for the new design of the Airport Way/Cushman Intersection Improvements project.
- The Policy Board approved the FAST Planning 2022 Meeting Calendar.

## 6. Public Comment Period

**Gabrielle Larry** commented that she was wondering about the road from the exit on the Johansen and if there was a reason there were no lights on that road. Ms. Larry commented that she saw people walking and many of the areas were unlit. Ms. Larry stated that it was so dark back there that it was unsafe, and she would like to see some lighting in that area because it was a very busy road.

Mr. Fox asked Ms. Larry to clarify if she was talking about Peger Road that went past Spenard from the Johansen Expressway to Airport Way.

Ms. Larry stated that Mr. Fox was correct. Ms. Larry commented that she noticed that over the years and never thought about it until she passed through it but with the sidewalk issues and if people were walking or a car broke down you did not see them because it was so dark out there.

Mr. Fox noted that Dan Adamczak with DOT&PF Maintenance was one the PEC members and after the meeting she would coordinate with him about that.

Mr. Adamczak stated that that road was recently redone and some of the lighting was removed during that project.

Ms. Larry commented that she noticed that at night, especially after Nanook games, and thought it should be a higher priority than it has been.

## 7. Old Business

### a. Bloomberg Philanthropies “Asphalt Art Initiative 2021” Grant Update

Mr. Fox explained that they had been working with Bloomberg Philanthropies and a “Call for Artists” would be issued by FAST Planning in January. Mr. Fox explained that they were looking for artists or artist teams that would like to submit examples of work they had done. Mr. Fox explained that once that call for artists closed, they would like to rely on the Project Enhancement Committee to assist with the artist selection, review, elimination of design proposals with the City of Fairbanks, and then vote on the artist who would do the work. Mr. Fox explained that a website would be set up to gather input about the designs. Mr. Fox explained that they would also be conducting pre- and post-design surveys. Mr. Fox explained that event planning would be from February-May, 2020. Mr. Fox explained that installation was anticipated for the weekend of June 4-5, 2022 and would be concurrent with the Annual Storm Drain Art event.

### b. Wendell Avenue Bridge Area Tile Mosaic Art Update

Mr. Fox explained that the Borough had selected Graehl Park for their “Park A Year” Program in 2022 and set aside \$300,000 to replace playground equipment and improve accessibility at Graehl Park near the Wendell Avenue Bridge. Mr. Fox

explained that the new playground would be ADA-compliant. Mr. Fox explained that the upgrades included multi-use paths, a picnic area, parking lot, and landscaping. Mr. Fox explained that the Borough also submitted a grant proposal to the Rasmuson Foundation requesting match funding and received an additional \$300,000 in December 2021 bringing the total project budget to \$600,000. Mr. Fox explained that part of the scope of the project funding from the Rasmuson would be for river access safety signage, salmon/habitat interpretive panels, and an Athabaskan-themed tile mosaic at the park facility. Mr. Fox explained that this helped get additional mosaics (similar to those at Morris Thompson Visitor Center) in the area of the bridge but not on the bridge itself (which was the original vision). Mr. Fox added that construction was planned for 2022.

**c. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Reconstruction**

Mr. Fox explained that the Policy Board had approved all four recommendations from the Project Enhancement Committee and forwarded them to the City of Fairbanks and DOT&PF Project Managers who were doing their best to accommodate those recommendations. Mr. Fox explained that Committee members wanted to discuss the potential for a crosswalk at the School District Building and decorative fencing along the Sadlers parking lot. Mr. Fox explained that DOT&PF and the City of Fairbanks Project Managers were committed to a work session on the crosswalk with PEC Committee members and School District staff in February and the School District staff were contacted. Mr. Fox explained that we were still waiting to hear whether or not a decorative fence along Sadlers parking lot could be accommodated in the design within the extents of the existing right-of-way. Mr. Fox explained that with Federal funds they did not necessarily want to pursue an easement/right-of-way for aesthetic features because it resulted in right-of-way acquisition cost and significant delay to the project schedule. Mr. Fox explained that construction funding was programmed for 2023.

Mr. Zinza commented that the fence would be installed within the right-of-way, and they would put it at the top of the slope to avoid any easement or right-of-way acquisition.

Mr. Pristash commented that the fence might not fit into the parameters in that area because of the slopes of the green strip, which was not a gentle swale and more of a 3:1. Mr. Pristash explained that there was limited space there so that fence might not fit so easily in the right-of-way.

Ms. Sprinkle asked whether they could do a shrub or some type of greenery in that area if they could not have fencing. Ms. Sprinkle commented that she liked the idea of having a feeling of security in that area where the benches were when you were sitting there.

Mr. Pristash explained that the area where the green strip was between the sidewalk and the Sadlers Parking lot. Mr. Pristash explained that the benches would still go on the sidewalk and your back would be to the green strip. Mr. Pristash explained that to put the fence at the edge of the right-of-way line with the slope of the green strip, the fence foundation would be on that backslope which made it a little bit problematic. Mr. Pristash explained that they could probably do it, but it would be better if that fence was outside the right-of-way on the flat ground of the parking lot.

Mr. Pristash explained that they were only dedicating 5-ft. for the green strip so it would be difficult to put something in there, but a fence would be easiest on the outside of the right-of-way.

**d. Airport/Cushman Intersection Reconstruction**

Mr. Fox explained that the Policy Board approved the proposed design for the intersection landscaping/gateway feature from the Project Enhancement Committee on November 10, 2021. Mr. Fox explained that the DOT&PF Project Manager gave direction to their Consultant, Kinney Engineering, to follow the PEC proposal. Mr. Fox explained that more discussion might be needed in the future as the design progresses. Mr. Fox explained that the DOT&PF Project Manager and Consultant were looking at alternative routes to see what the cul-de-sac area could become. Mr. Fox explained that construction was programmed for 2023.

**e. College Road Resurfacing**

Mr. Fox explained that as they discussed at their last meeting, this was a "Preventative Maintenance" project which limited its funding to road resurfacing, correcting ADA deficiencies, and railroad signal upgrades. Mr. Fox explained that there was limited opportunity for project enhancements outside of the funding scope of this project since it used specific Federal funding. Mr. Fox explained that construction funding was programmed for 2023.

Gabrielle Larry commented that she had a business and owned property on College Road. Ms. Larry commented that this topic came up about changing this road from a four-lane to a three-lane and she saw that now they were going to put it back on the agenda for discussion with this new committee. Ms. Larry explained that they suffered through a lot of meetings, addressed it with everyone, spent a lot of time testifying at all those meetings, and asked why they were bringing this issue up again. Ms. Larry explained that she had traveled this road for 40+ years and did not want that road to be three lanes. Ms. Larry commented that she did not understand why they were rehashing this. Ms. Larry commented that there were only a handful of people that wanted it to be three lanes and she did not know why they kept bringing it back up.

**f. Chena River Signage Campaign**

Mr. Fox explained that the Tanana Valley Watershed Association had initiated a fundraiser for bridge wayfinding, river recreation, and interpretive signs and had raised over \$6,000 to date. Mr. Fox explained that the Borough Community Planning Department had a graphic artist under contract, using Borough funds, to assist with the river recreation signs (river maps with distances, float times to bridges, put-in/take-out points, and safety tips for recreation on the river). Mr. Fox explained that the Borough Mayor's Office was interested in helping with the funding for manufacturing and installation of the signs. Mr. Fox explained that the City of Fairbanks Public Works Department had offered to make the bridge wayfinding signs in their sign shop by May 2022. Mr. Fox explained that the Tanana Valley Watershed Association would pay for materials. Mr. Fox explained that more coordination with DOT&PF was needed for installation locations and methods.

**8. New Business**

**a. Downtown Parking Garage Wayfinding Signs (Action Item)**

**• Consideration of Nominating Project to FAST Improvement Program**

Mr. Fox explained that this item was on the agenda at the request of Ms. Sprinkle to nominate this as a potential project to the FAST Improvement Program which funded road replacement, drainage, signage, etc. Mr. Fox explained the signs would be similar to the ones currently installed around downtown. Mr. Fox presented a graphic depicting the proposed locations for the signs which circled the block around the parking garage. Mr. Fox explained the proposed sign concept for the signs showing parking rates that would be installed on all four sides of the parking garage.

Mr. Jacobson asked if the signs could be the type that could be replaced as the parking rates changed.

Mr. Fox explained that the signs would be panels that could be changed out as needed. Mr. Fox explained that more coordination would be needed regarding the concept for the signs.

**Public Comment:** No public comment.

**Motion:** To nominate the Downtown Parking Garage Wayfinding Signs to the FAST Improvement Program for funding. (Jacobson/Sprinkle).

**Discussion:** No discussion.

**Vote on Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

**b. Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) Overview**

Mr. Fox explained that he had put together a spreadsheet about what he had gleaned from the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act that applied to our community and how to pursue the funding.

**c. Election of Chair and Vice Chair (Action Item)**

Mr. Fox explained that each year a new Chair and Vice Chair were selected. Mr. Fox explained that currently he was the Chair and Ms. Lunsford was the Vice Chair. Mr. Fox explained that they were both non-voting members.

**Motion:** Jackson Fox nominated as Chair, and Olivia Lunsford nominated for Vice Chair. (Sprinkle).

**Discussion:** No discussion.

**Vote on Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

**9. Agenda Setting for April 7, 2022 Meeting**

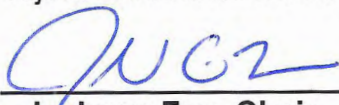
Mr. Fox proposed the agenda for the April 7, 2022 meeting and asked for input on other items to include on the next meeting agenda.

**10. Committee Member Comments**

- No comments.

**11. Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn.** (Jacobson/Adamczak). The meeting adjourned at 12:51 p.m. The next scheduled Project Enhancement Committee Meeting is Thursday, April 7, 2022.

Approved:   
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Jackson Fox, Chair  
Project Enhancement Committee

Date: 4/7/2022